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SCIENCE

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CONTENTS:

<i>Professor Flinders Petrie's Scheme of an Ethnological Store-house:</i> A. C. HADDON	565
<i>The Fur-seal Investigation of 1897:</i> F. A. L.....	568
<i>A Botanical Excursion to Mexico:</i> JOHN W. HARSHBERGER.....	569
<i>Botany at the American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i> F. C. NEWCOMBE.....	572
<i>Anthropology at the Toronto Meeting of the British Association:</i> A. F. CHAMBERLAIN.....	575
<i>Organic Selection:</i> HENRY F. OSBORN, EDWARD B. POULTON.....	583
<i>Astrophysical Notes:</i> E. B. F.....	587
<i>Notes on Inorganic Chemistry:</i> J. L. H.....	588
<i>Scientific Notes and News:—</i>	
<i>The Spelling of Geographic Names:</i> W. F. MORSELL. <i>The 'Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse':</i> R. H. T. <i>The American Journal of Physiology; General.</i>	588
<i>University and Educational News.</i>	593
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>The Easternmost Volcanoes of the United States;</i> ROBT. T. HILL. <i>Literary Embryology:</i> CHARLES S. MINOT. <i>The 'Enchanted Mesa':</i> CHAS. F. LUMMIS.....	594
<i>Scientific Literature:—</i>	
<i>Ladd's Philosophy of Knowledge:</i> J. E. CREIGHTON. <i>Tarr's Elementary Geology:</i> BAILEY WILLIS	597
<i>New Books.</i>	600

PROFESSOR FLINDERS PETRIE'S SCHEME OF AN ETHNOLOGICAL STORE-HOUSE.

OF late years many scientific men have realized that the function of museums has been imperfectly understood. Some museum officials still regard museums more in the light of cabinets of curiosities than as serious teaching institutions. There are two distinct ways of treating museums from the educational point of view; these may briefly be described as the method of the text-book or the plan of dictionary; a combination of the two is always difficult and often impossible.

To explain my meaning: The bulk of people go to a museum for intellectual amusement; they are interested in natural objects or in the works of man, and they visit the museum in a laudable spirit of curiosity and with a desire to receive instruction. What these people require is a comparatively small number of objects suggestively arranged, with descriptive labels and accompanied by carefully chosen drawings, photographs and maps. In a properly arranged museum of this type it should be impossible for any intelligent visitor to leave it without having gained definite instruction. This is what I venture to call the text-book museum.

The more serious student, he who is seeking to advance knowledge, requires a very different type of museum. It is necessary that he should have access to a large number